

INDEX

People A-2  
National News A-3  
Opinion A-4  
Youth page A-5  
Arts Wednesday B-1  
Business B-4  
Classifieds B-5

Volume 12, Number 2

Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

October 18-October 24, 1995

INSIDE

**The promise of black youth...**

Opinion page A-4

**Nelson Mandela launches children's fund**

Entertainment page B-1

**Newark Y emerges from bankruptcy protection**

Business page B-4

**DiVincenzo proposes cut to freeholder budget**

Cut scheduled for 54 percent by year's end

NEWARK—Essex County Freeholder President Joseph N. DiVincenzo recently announced that he will submit a proposal to the Board of Freeholders to restructure the staffing of the Freeholder Board and cut the Freeholder Budget 54 percent by the end of the year. The proposal is the third action initiated by DiVincenzo to reorganize, restructure, and downsize the operations of the Freeholders Board.

The DiVincenzo proposal calls for the Freeholders to reduce the allotment they each receive for aides from \$30,000 to \$20,000, limits the way this money can be disbursed, and requires that these staff members be full-time employees to be eligible for health benefits. The resolution stipulates that Freeholders can have up to four staff members at \$5,000 who will not receive health benefits, or they can have one full-time staff member being paid \$20,000, who will receive health benefits.

Health care benefits cost the county approximately \$500,000 per employee. The proposal marks the second time that the Board has changed the requirements for their staff to receive benefits. Earlier this year, the Board instituted a requirement that a staff member be a five percent staff person to receive \$5,000 and work 20 hours per week.

New Jersey Public Commission page A-3

**NY Cotton Exchange moves to Jersey City**

TRENTON—Governor Christine Whitman has accepted the final decision of the New York Cotton Exchange to relocate its industry to New Jersey. The New York Cotton Exchange, along with the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchanges, signed a letter of intent on July 12 to move to New Jersey, giving the parties 90 days to finalize details. At its October 10 meeting, the exchange voted unanimously for the move.

"This is very exciting news," said Gov. Whitman. "The decision by the exchange to move its industry to Jersey City speaks well for our economic and public policies. I am delighted that the deal has been finalized."

She noted that the state is now waiting a similar decision by the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange. "We are very hopeful that the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange will follow their colleagues across the river." The move is estimated to bring 1200 new jobs to New Jersey.

# 1.2 MILLION MARCH



Black men converge on the Capitol in a day of atonement and togetherness for the Million Man March.

Photo by Glen Feldon

by Sandra Wright

October 16, 1989: Abolitionist John Brown raised the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

October 16, 1995: One hundred thirty-six years later, 1.2 million black men marched on the nation's capital to rebuild their communities. Leaving their home communities, late evening and early morning, traveling by air, train, bus and car, men began arriving until their ranks swelled to more than 1.2 million according to participants.

Speaking from inside the march, Dr. Henry Johnson, publisher of *City News* talks about the march, its participants and why he thinks the march was and is important.

"It was a unique experience be-

cause it was the first time in modern history that black men have come together in this magnitude. "People were reflective, this was not like the march on Washington that tended to be an event where people came and fought around. The men who were there, and the few women, were introspective, reflective," Johnson stated.

Dr. Johnson reported that the mood was more somber, even though there was tremendous applause in response to speakers and there was a positive atmosphere where people spoke to each other in positive tones. The mood was much more thoughtful.

"To me that was very good because the whole point was for people to come back and do something in

their communities. What the march said is that a million men could be and were called and they came to Washington, to come together because they also concerned about the issues facing them," Dr. Johnson continued.

Another New Jersey resident, Neil Clarke who traveled to Washington, DC on the train said it was wonderful to see the massive support that the women gave to the men in Baltimore.

Clarke, who boarded the train from Baltimore said there were hundreds of women at the train station cheering on the men and wishing them safe travel. The women were also at the station in the evening to welcome the men on their return.

Dr. Johnson stated that he feels

that the fact that the men came to the gathering reinforces the idea that when they go back to their respective communities they will find ways to solve problems and uplift these communities.

"For me and the others on my bus, there was a clear sign that we want to come back and look at the things that we must do to change the direction of our communities. Some of those changes may not be the changes that people anticipate or expect, but we are concerned about the crime in our communities," stated Johnson.

"We are also concerned that a lot of the crimes in our communities we don't control, we don't manifest, and yet we see these crimes taking place throughout the communities. The law

enforcement doesn't seem to see those same criminals not take action against them. So the question is what steps do we take to begin to bring those concerns to the forefront?" Johnson stated.

Dr. Johnson also addressed the one lingering question that was the reason for many absences from the march: "Should Farrakhan have led this?"

"Farrakhan called a million men to come and a million men came. And that's the point and that's what's important."

"They came to learn and experience what their collective coming together could achieve, and that he achieved a kind of healing experience."

See 1.2 MILLION/page A-6

## Poll shows 61 percent of New Jersey residents feel threatened by violence

NEWARK—Six-in-10 New Jersey residents perceive violence as more of a threat today than they did five years ago and a quarter of residents have been a victim of violence, according to the latest UMDNJ-Eagleton poll.

While 61 percent of residents report feeling more threatened in general, 29 percent feel more threatened by violence in their own neighborhood now than five years ago. When asked to rate five possible threats to their personal health, they say violence is less of a threat than either cancer or heart attacks, but more of a threat than either accidents or AIDS.

How New Jerseyans view violence and its causes are reported in the statewide poll sponsored by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). The inquiry, funded by the Foundation of UMDNJ, was conducted by the Eagleton Institute, which surveyed a random sample of 804 New Jersey adults by telephone between September 6 and 13, 1995.

"The results of this poll underscore the need to regard violence as a major public health crisis," said Dr. Stanley S. Bergen Jr., UMDNJ pres-

ident. "As health care providers we have traditionally viewed diseases such as tuberculosis as vital public health priorities, but now we must include violence prevention as an urgent goal."

### The threat of violence.

Whether New Jerseyans feel more threatened depends on if they feel the threat as a general one or as a threat in their own neighborhood. Overall, six in 10 residents say they feel more threatened by violence today than they did five years ago, while 3 percent say they feel less threatened and 35 percent say they feel about the same threat as they did five years ago.

Those with incomes below \$20,000 (70 percent), residents of South Jersey (69 percent), and women (68 percent) are among those most likely to feel more threatened by violence today.

While 61 percent say they feel more threatened by violence overall, 29 percent say that the threat of violence in their own neighborhood is greater than it was five years ago. By comparison, 13 percent feel less threatened by violence in their neigh-

borhood today, while 55 percent say it is about the same as five years ago. 41 percent of major urban centers (61 percent) and nonwhite residents (43 percent) are among those most likely to say that the threat of violence in their neighborhoods has increased in the past five years.

Among those most likely to rank acts of violence ("4" and "5" representing great threat) as threats to their health are:

- 58 percent of non-white New Jerseyans
- 61 percent of residents of major urban centers
- 57 percent of residents of other urban areas
- 51 percent of North Jersey residents
- 54 percent of women

### Causes of violence

Four of 10 possible causes of violence stand out in New Jerseyans' minds as being responsible for a great deal of violence. Eight in 10 residents feel that illegal drug use causes a great deal of violence, seven in 10 say the same about criminals not serving enough jail time and about the availability of guns, and six in 10 say that alcohol abuse causes a great deal of

violence.

Other items, that more than four in 10 people see as conditions responsible for a great deal of violence, include poor education (49 percent), lack of jobs (46 percent), and violence on television (41 percent). Less than 38 percent feel that broken families, differences between rich and poor (34 percent), and lack of care for the mentally ill (32 percent) cause a great deal of violence.

"It is apparent that the public puts a heavy emphasis on criminals and substance abuse as causes of violence, rather than on social causes," said Dr. Steven Schleifer, professor and chair of psychiatry at New Jersey Medical School of UMDNJ, Newark. "With violence clearly soaring, we also need to step back and look at the root causes, such as poverty, in order to reach long-range solutions through such measures as improved education and creating jobs."

Citing New Jerseyans' emphasis on the use of illegal drugs and alcohol abuse as sources of violence, Phyllis Reilly, director of Addiction Recovery Services, UMDNJ-Comprehensive Mental Health Center,

Piscataway, said, "Studies show that these substances can exacerbate acts of violence in people prone to violence for a number of reasons. Indeed, abuse of these substances is often highly correlated with domestic violence and automobile accidents. Clearly, intensified prevention efforts would help in reducing alcohol and drug-related violence."

### Personal experiences with violence

About half of New Jerseyans say they have witnessed an act of violence, while one-fourth in say they have personally been a victim of violence. Specifically, 16 percent of state residents report that they have been a victim of violence because of a crime, 3 percent say that they have been a victim of spouse violence, and 1 percent say that they have been the victim of violence from a parent.

Residents of New Jersey's major urban centers are most likely to report that they have either witnessed (74 percent) or been a victim (43 percent) of violence. Similarly, more non-white residents report that they have either witnessed (56 percent) or been the

See VIOLENCE/page A-6

Celebrate a week without violence

# PEOPLE

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**THRU OCTOBER 31**  
**BLOOMFIELD**—Prints on loan from Newark Public Library on display at Bloomfield College. For more info call 201-748-9000, ext. 343.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**  
**TRENTON**—Star party from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the State Museum. For more info call 609-292-6308.

**CRANFORD**—WordPerfect Computers course at Union County College. For more info call 908-709-7600.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19**  
**WAYNE**—Writing a Notification from Idea to Print one-day seminar for aspiring poets and writers at William Paterson College from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-555-4248.

**NEWARK**—Open House for Healthy Start of Essex County program at 40 House Family Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. For more info call 201-399-6888.

**SOMERVILLE**—Somerset County's 7th Annual Candlelight Vigil at Somerset County Courthouse at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-302-2545.

**BEGINNING OCTOBER 18**  
**NEW YORK**—"Jazzmatazz" circus at Lincoln Center. For ticket info and times call 212-268-0055.

**OCTOBER 20 - 21**  
**EAST BRUNSWICK**—"Scared Whites in New Jersey: Is your job on the line?" teachers conference at the Brunswick Hilton. For more info call 609-393-2500.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
**NEWARK**—"Lo Mio es Mio" play (What's Mine is Mine) at The Newark Public Library at 2 p.m. For more info call 201-733-7772.

**CRANFORD**—Folks Arts Festival at Union County College from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-558-2550.

**BEGINNING OCTOBER 21**  
**CRANFORD**—Comedy workshop at 10 a.m. at Union County College. For

more info call 908-709-7600.

**OCTOBER 21 & 28**  
**JERSEY CITY**—Case Management course for people seeking to become drug abuse counselors at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24**  
**NEWARK**—Essex County Freshman's Fourth quarter budget hearing at the Hall of Records at 4 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
**EAST ORANGE**—"Where is GOD in The Ghettos?" at East Orange High School at 4:15 p.m. For more info call 201-673-2193.

**SOUTH ORANGE**—Career Day at Seton Hall University from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-761-9355.

**BEGINNING OCTOBER 25**  
**CRANFORD**—"Proper Pitching Machine" course for coaches, trainers and players at Union County College at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7600.

**OCTOBER 25-27**  
**ATLANTIC CITY**—"Workshop '95 Sharing the Vision," featuring Morton Dean and Dr. Ernest Boyer at the Atlantic City Convention Center. For more info call 609-695-7600.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
**N. PLAINFIELD**—Tutoring Training Workshop at North Plainfield Community Adult School at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-755-7998.

**SOUTH ORANGE**—"Diversity & High Performance Work Teams" conference at Seton Hall University at 12:30 p.m. For more info call 901-761-9355.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
**JERSEY CITY**—"Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse" course for individuals seeking to become drug abuse counselors at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

## Harris named director clinical laboratories at Saint Michael's Medical Center



Marilyn M. Harris

**NEWARK**—Marilyn M. Harris of Hackensack is the new director of clinical laboratories at Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark.

Harris will assume administrative

responsibility for the hospital's clinical and virology laboratories as well as the Blood Research Institute laboratory located at Saint Michael's. She received her B.S. degree from Simmons College in Boston, MA, and her M.B.A. from Rutgers University Graduate School of Management in Newark.

Prior to joining Saint Michael's, she served as director of the laboratory at Palisades General Hospital in North Bergen, N.J. Her professional experience as a laboratory administrator has also included serving as the laboratory manager at New York HealthCare, a subsidiary of Beth Israel Hospital in New York City; director of technical services at Park Madison Laboratories in New York City, and manager at Diagon Corporation in Westport, CT.



**JERSEY CITY**—Dr. Alvin Poussaint (r), psychiatrist and social critic on race relations and the dynamics of prejudices, delivered the keynote address at the Jersey City State College "Academic Convocation" which marked the beginning of the 1995-96 academic year. A professor of psychiatry and faculty associate dean for student affairs at Harvard School, Dr. Poussaint discussed his address with Dr. Carlos Hernandez, JCSJ president (l); Dr. David Hallerman, of the JCSJ department of Psychology (2nd from l); and Dr. Aileen Graham, JCSJ vice president for student services, who is a clinical psychologist.

## Imperial Potentate Pratt visits East Orange



**EAST ORANGE**—In mid-September the 32nd Imperial Potentate of the Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Inc. The East Orange Police Chief, Harry A. Harman and Mayor Cardell Cooper were joined by members of the East Orange Police Department to honor him with the title of honorary police chief. Imperial Potentate Pratt made 14 men and one woman honorary Past Potentates. Several members of the East Orange Police Department have been enlisted to serve on the Imperial Potentate's Security Task Force. Detective Rose Wilson is the first woman. (Front l-r) Detective Sergeant Julian Rogers; Sgt. Alex Pettiford; Deputy of the Oasis George Harvest, Detective Rose Wilson; 32nd Imperial Potentate William T. Pratt; Police Chief Harry A. Harman; Mayor Cardell Cooper; Detective Anthony Cox; Sgt. Harvey Rioson; Detective Walter Toney; and Detective William Garvin. (Background l-r) Detective Lafayette Hamlett; Past Potentate Ralph Banks; Sgt. Tony Woodson and Noble Otis Johnson.

Photo by Lloyd Holmes.

## Men of Project 2000 to be honored

**NEWARK**—The Seton Hall University Project 2000 Community Advisory Board is hosting a "Meet The Men of Project 2000" evening during its third annual fund-raiser on Thursday, October 26 at Ruben's Restaurant in Newark.

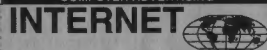
Over 40 men, who serve as teach-

er assistants in two classrooms at the Alexander Elementary School in Newark and Oakwood Avenue School in Orange, will be honored at the fund-raiser.

For additional information on the evening please call 201-761-9648.

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# NATION

## Simpson verdict highlights need for race justice

### National News

#### at a glance

#### 'VOTING IS POWER'

The NAACP recently launched its Voter Empowerment Project (VEP) in Jackson, MS, the same city in which Myrtle Evers-Williams, the current chair of the NAACP, helped found the local branch of the NAACP. With her husband, Medgar, VEP is a national project of the NAACP to organize massive voter registration and "Get-Out-The-Vote" campaigns aimed at registering at least one million new voters. Evers-Williams said, "The NAACP will ensure that African Americans are registered to vote, thereby enabling them to participate in the electoral process. This guarantees their voices will be heard in upcoming local, state, and national elections." There are seven million eligible, but unregistered black voters.

—JACKSON MS

#### 7-ELEVEN HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING MINORITY PURCHASING

The Dallas Together Forum has presented its "Most Advancement Award" for progress made in minority purchasing to The Southland Corporation (7-Eleven). The award is presented for the greatest year-to-year improvement in minority purchasing, hiring or advancement. "We owe this award to the outstanding efforts of our Construction Department," says Jeanne Hitchcock, 7-Eleven's national affairs manager. "In 1994, during the renovation of the Dallas-area 7-Eleven stores, over 40 percent of our construction dollars went to minority businesses. This award demonstrates that a company can successfully diversify its vendor base," stated Hitchcock. Southland's operations include more than 5,500 7-Eleven and other convenience stores in the U.S. and Canada.

—WASHINGTON, DC

#### BLACK LAWYERS FIND RACISM IN NORTH CAROLINA

According to the National Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers (NCABL) successfully petitioned for the removal of a local district attorney for conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. The lawyers reported that D.A. Gerry L. Spivey directed racial epithets at Ray Jacobs, a defensive player for the Denver Broncos. The NCABL says that after a hearing on the case in August, D.A. Spivey was permanently removed from the office.

—NORTH CAROLINA

#### NBA SUPPORT JOHNNIE COCHRAN

National Bar Association President Keith Waters appeared on CNN's "Burden of Proof" program during the O. J. Simpson trial and stated his strong support of Johnnie Cochran's closing statements to the jury, saying, "While it is understandable that any discussions of the Holocaust should be handled with sensitivity and dignity, we believe that Johnnie Cochran's linkage of Mark Fuhrman's racist views on burning masses of people with those of Adolf Hitler, are factually accurate, ethically proper, and legally permissible." —WASHINGTON, DC

#### BUDGET CUTS WILL AFFECT ALL

In searching for ways to balance the budget, the U.S. Congress has proposed substantially reducing the amount of financial aid for college students. Proposed reductions amount to over \$30 million during the next seven years and include elimination of the six months post graduation grace period, increases in loan origination fees by 23 percent, and elimination of over 280,000 Pell Grants in 1996. Reports show that unpaid student loans total over \$25 million that could be used to fund new programs. If the U.S. could collect. —WASHINGTON, DC

#### DENNY'S FADING TO BLACK?

Denny's Restaurants recently announced 14 first-time franchise candidates have been selected to participate.

See NEWS/page A-6

#### From the National Rainbow Coalition

LOS ANGELES—While many of the politicians running for President in our country are arguing that we should be, and now have become, a color blind society—thus, the anti-affirmative action madness the anti-

set-aside mania, the anti-majority/minority political districts and the anti-immigration laws—the O.J. Simpson verdict has once again placed race and race justice in the center of American political debate.

In fact, it was a racist police officer that probably resulted in Mr. Sim-

pson's acquittal.

The debate following the verdict is clear about one thing—blacks and whites view the criminal justice system from two different vantage points. Whites see it from the top down. Blacks see it from the bottom up. Whites essentially see it as working

(generally) fairly in their interests. Blacks see it as (generally) stacked against them and working against their interests—indeed, as oppressing them. Whites see the criminal justice system as essentially color-blind. Blacks see it as essentially discriminatory toward people of color.

That brings us to the current post-Simpson debate over race and racial justice. It also brings us to the central question of remedies for racism, "should race play a role or at least be a factor in remedy?" That is at the core of the debate over affirmative

See RACIAL JUSTICE/page A-4

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## EDITORIAL

Guest editorial

# Why the march was necessary

by Reverend Jesse L. Jackson

WASHINGTON, DC—On Monday, October 16, hundreds of thousands of African-American men gathered in Washington, DC for the Million Man March. They came from Baptist and Catholic churches, from AME congregations from the Church of God in Christ, the Nation of Islam, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC).

Elected officials, ministers, business and union leaders, workers and the unemployed, they marched with the support of African-American women, and with the hopes of African-American children.

The march gained new momentum when a consensus was forged among Rev. Joseph Lowery of SCLC, Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Rev. Clay Evans from Chicago, the Rev. Al Sharpton of New York and other community leaders with Minister Louis Farrakhan, who launched the initiative. All agreed that the march be ecumenical and broadly based, that it carry a moral tone of healing, and that it put forth a call for political, as well as, personal reform.

Why march? Thirty-two years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called us to march because of the "shameful condition of the Negro." Thirty-two years later, the names have changed but the shame remains. The civil rights movement opened doors for a new African-American middle class, but those who were left behind are more isolated and more destitute than before.

In many cities, our babies die in infancy at Third World rates. Too many African Americans are born into poverty and suffer malnutrition and environmental poisoning that can blunt their promise. Our children risk street drugs to attend schools in mean streets, often so rundown as to threaten their health rather than lift their minds. Those who do graduate face a world of unemployment and insecurity, of low-wage jobs and low-gauge hopes.

There are more African Americans in prison than in college. Young African-American men suffer unemployment rates of up to 50 percent and higher in our inner cities. Those who succeed discover that discrimination still impedes their access to mortgages for homes, capital for small businesses, and insurance for safety and security.

Against these odds, many surrender. Young men see babies that they do not raise. Families crack under the pressure of poverty and despair. Drugs and guns provide outlets for the pain. Black-on-black crime plagues our neighborhoods.

This surrender makes it easier for the larger society to justify its callous neglect. Racial scapegoating has fueled vicious attacks on working and poor people. Welfare mothers are termed lazy, so the national commitment to protect mothers and children from destitution is ended.

Unemployed young African-American men are termed genetically limited, and a prison industrial complex grows to profit from their punishment. Cities are deemed hopeless and so abandoned.

Affirmative action programs to open locked doors are termed discriminatory against those who already had the key, and so bridges to opportunity begin to fall. Budget deficits are addressed by cutting back programs for the poor, rather than poor programs.

And so we march. We march in a solemn commitment of atonement and reconciliation to one another. African-American men must not surrender to despair. We may be born in the ghetto, but we cannot let the ghetto be born in us. We must rise above it. We must turn to each other, not on each other. As we are one for our wayward ways, we recommit ourselves to our families, our children and to one another.

We march in a purposeful demand of justice. The call for self-reliance and the demand for justice are not contradictory. They are complementary. As we rise above our circumstance, we lay claim to the moral authority that makes the demand for equal justice compelling.

Thirty-two years ago, we came to redeem a covenant that had been returned, marked "insufficient funds." Today, we once again are told that justice must be deferred for lack of funds, but we know better. This Congress voted a billion dollars for a boat the Navy did not ask for, even as it cut similar amount from the nation's poorest schools. This Administration found billions to bail out wealthy speculators in Mexican pesos, but could find no money to rebuild our cities.

Billions go to build prisons, and nothing for schools. Taxes are to be cut on the unearned income of the idle rich and raised on the hard-earned wages of the working poor. In rich nation, we suffer from a deficit not of dollars but of decency—and so we must march.

We can make a difference. In 1994, the Gingrich forces won by a slim five total vote, 19,000 votes. In the critical races, in the national campaign of 1994, six million fewer people vote than in the previous midterm election. Eight million African Americans are still unregistered. We will register African Americans to vote and vote in large numbers—and so we march.

We came together on Oct. 16 at a critical and historical moment. New tests tell us, Many fear the year 1996 will be a repeat of 1896, with the advances of the last decade erased, as Congress builds jails for our hopes. We are so African-American men from all walks of life came together and stood up. When boats rise from the bottom, a powerful armada can be assembled. It is time to heal. It is time challenge. It was time to march.

## Racial justice

Continued from page A-3

action, sex-aides and majority-minority political districts.

Most whites, it seems, currently say no, most blacks currently say yes. Each says so from their vantage point—let whites see hiring, job opportunities and economic develop-

## CITY NEWS

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ment as essentially fair and open; blacks see those same things as stacked against them. That is central to understanding the post-Simpson debate and the role that race plays in our society. Beyond race, in the O.J. Simpson trial we have witnessed the protracted human drama of recycled pain. This trial was not about glitter and celebrity, but central to this case was the strain and pain of blood. There are two people dead, families in grief over lost loved ones, careers destroyed and reputations tarnished. There are no winners.

We, as a nation of laws, must accept and live with the verdict, and the battle must remain in the courtroom, not taken to the streets. The legal process has run its course, with top-notch legal teams performing their professional duties with excellence, and a jury carefully chosen to reflect the local community of peers.

There were apparently many factors in this verdict. The prosecutor did establish proof beyond reasonable doubt for this jury. They nev-

by Connie Woodruff

Minister Louis Farrakhan is trying to mobilize a million men to commit to a national policy of reestablishing family values, support their families, organize self-help groups and reach out for political empowerment.

A program based in Newark's West Ward has since this was founded by Willie Brown and his son Chester, in 1979. The West Ward Cultural Center, Inc., is an organization of professional, laymen and community activists whose common bond is the need to improve the education of local children, restructure families with emphasis on parenting and to ameliorate the quality of life in the community.

The organization is affectionately referred to as the West Ward Cultural Center Family and thanks to West Ward Councilman and State Senator, Ronald Rice, they will soon be located in a new home at 107-11 Roosevelt Ave. where existing programs will be expanded and new programs added to the multi-purpose projects.

## PASTOR'S WORD

by Revs. Reginald Jackson & Raiford Wheeler

The verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial has brought out into the open and made clear to so many what has been obvious for a long time; and that is that racism is more prevalent and pervasive than this nation wants to admit. The United States is so polarized along racial lines that we are sitting on a powder keg. Racism is worse today than it has been.

And we need to be clear. The verdict in the Simpson trial did not create the racism, but it hurled it out into the open. There have been obvious signs that we, as a nation, did not want to face that showed the depth of the racism at work in this nation. Some of those signs are:

- Political leadership that would exploit the anger of the so-called "angry white male" who is angry because minorities surpassed past jobs they believe they were better qualified for.

- Blacks who were angry because the government used the black community as a dumping ground for illegal immigrants in the nation.

The Congress emphasizes its on cut-

## ALONG THE COLOR LINE

Part one of a two-part series

# Young, gifted and black: the promise of black youth

by Dr. Manning Marable

People of all races, ethnic backgrounds and social classes frequently say that "young people are our most important resource." For people of color, and especially for African Americans, our ideas about youth are also affected profoundly by our collective memory; by our sense of the historical meaning drawn from the ordeals our people have experienced in the past; and by the challenges which confront us in the present.

We see the promise of our young people as the brightest representation of the real progress of black people collectively in this country, what we have achieved and what we can become. We desperately want our chil-

In the winter of '95, the center established a sub-committee known as "Women of Vision," to emulate the goals of the parent group in addition to establishing and maintaining strong family values and serve as a support system for the community and mentors for young female West Warders. The "visionaries" are committed to "mental-spiritual-economic-brilliance" as part of a united community network of services.

The "Women of Vision" were introduced to the city-at-large recently at their First Dinner Dance and awards presentations. Four women and two men were cited as persons of vision and recognized for their activism and advocacy of community and neighborhood empowerment for Newark residents.

Recipients included County Surrogate Maria Viscaranda-DeSoto, Barbara Kukla, editor "Newark This Week," a Monday feature in *The Star Ledger*; Bessie Walker, former Newark Board of Education member and executive director of a county-based program directly impacting on women and children; and Jeanette Seabrooks, Democratic vice chair

West Ward Democratic Committee and teacher in the West Ward school district.

Male honorees were the West Ward Councilman and State legislator representative Ronald Rice along with Charles Bell, a Newark Housing Authority manager and former president, Newark Board of Education.

Thanks to former Bessie Walker, former Central Ward Democratic Committee vice chair, things are beginning to heat up in the campaign for council-at-large in Newark for the Nov. 7 ballot.

Bessie is campaigning with vigor. She's serious about winning the seat previously held by Gary Harris. From the number of endorsements (declared and undeclared) she has under her belt, it appears she is what she claims to be, the front-runner in this special election.

While some of the candidates look harried and worried at times, Walker's permanent smile is accompanied by a cheerful greeting. It won't be a pushover for Bessie, but now she's having the time of her life trying to make a dream become a reality.

On Oct. 18, Orange Councilman Mims Hackett will announce his candidacy for mayor, officially throwing his hat into Mayor Robert Brown's political ring. Hackett is not the only official harboring an urge to run against the mayor in next year's election, but he is the first to announce.

Spokane of fund-raisers, here are a couple not-to-be-missed: Omicron Xi Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Second Annual Jazz Brunch, Sunday Oct. 29, noon to 5 p.m., Robert Treat Hotel, Newark. Featured artist will be the great jazz legend, Panama Francis and the Savoy Sultans with vocalist Julie Steele. Proceeds to benefit AKA programs and scholarships.

On Friday, Oct. 20, the annual NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner at the Robert Treat Hotel, Newark. Beginning with cocktails at 6 p.m. with the Rev. Calvin Butts of Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York as speaker.

The Essex County Urban League Guild will celebrate its 50th anniversary dinner at Mayfair Farms in West

See A5 I SEE IT/page A-9

# Racism more prevalent now than ever

ing monies and programs that benefit minorities and the poor, while overlooking the majority of the budget that benefits the wealthiest in the country.

- Talk radio, where listeners constantly dump on blacks and refer to them as "those" people or "those" blacks dump on whites and speak as if all whites are racist.
- The racism is so thick you can feel it in the air and see the tension on people's faces. It's just every where and it is very bitter. Much of it unfortunately is based on misperceptions and misinformation. For example, a recent poll of whites found that a majority of them believe the black population in the country is more than it actually is and that blacks as a whole are more violent than whites and benefit more from the federal government than they do. All of which are wrong.

Blacks only make up about 12 percent of the population, on average make about 20 to 25 percent less salary for comparable work and are less than whites in numbers getting federal assistance. It is this wrong information which has caused many whites to embrace drastic cut backs in

social spending and affirmative action.

It is also why many politicians, particularly Democrats, don't talk about urban issues or programs like Medicaid, which primarily benefits the poor, many of whom are minorities. A leader in the state said recently, "we can't talk about Medicaid because whites will feel you're talking about giving money to blacks in Newark." Medicaid they can fight for and talk about, but not Medicaid.

With this immense racial polarization going on, the issue needs to be addressed. The political leadership will not address it and those who do, exploit the issue for political gain. There are conservatives and liberals who gain from exploiting the races. But as a whole, the nation's leadership, black, white, Hispanic and others will not meet the issue head on. And until we do, racism will continue to eat like a cancer into this nation.

Even more troubling however, is that the religious leaders of the nation will not address it. At its core, racism is not a political, economic or social problem. Racism is sin, no matter what color the racist. It infers that God made some people superior and

some people inferior, so some people better, and some people to dominate others. In fact, it makes God a racist.

There is no political, economic or social cure for racism. It must be cured from within, by a change of heart and spirit. That is why the clergy must be engaged in prophetic ministry, to speak to our flock and the nation about God "who out of one blood created all men to live together." Racism must be dealt with for what it is, sin, a spiritual problem.

This nation which boasts of "one nation under God," which prides its currency in "In God We Trust" and whose leaders choose their speeches by appealing "God bless the United States of America," must face up to its racist, racist for it must seek to move beyond it.

Leadership requires facing hard realities. Every pastor is a leader of his or her flock but also a leader in the community. Where we are, God calls us, to call sinners to repentance. Let us call this nation and its people, white, black, red, yellow and brown to repent from racism, turn to God as brothers and sisters in each other and truly become one nation, "with liberty and justice for all."

The frightening prospects for African-American children and youth have been identified by Marian Wright

See YOUNG, GIFTED/PAGE A-6

drum's lives and futures to be better and more fulfilling than our own lives have been.

We want to feel that the burden of racism and social inequality will be lifted from the shoulders of our daughters and sons, as they prepare to enter the workplace and society. We believe that the African-American child is in his or her own special way gifted, and deserving of every opportunity life has to offer.

The belief in the promise of black youth is also connected with the struggle to achieve freedom within American society. Each successive generation of young African Americans has made a vital contribution in the fight to destroy discrimination and inequality. In the 1940s, for example, black

young people challenged segregation laws by joining the Southern Youth Congress and the Congress of Racial Equality.

In 1960, black college students sparked the sit-in movement against the South. Black young people were in the vanguard of social change in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Growing up black in white America has always been a challenge, but never more so than today. To young

and black in the 1990s means that the basic context for human development—education, health care, personal safety, the environment, employment and shelter—is increasingly problematic. To be young and black today means fighting for survival in a harsh and frequently unforgiving urban environment.

The frightening prospects for African-American children and youth have been identified by Marian Wright

See YOUNG, GIFTED/PAGE A-6

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See RACIAL JUSTICE page A-6



# YOUTH BEAT

## KIDS CALENDAR

**THRU OCTOBER**  
TRENTON—"The Moon Witch" planetarium show at The State Museum every Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 3 p.m. For more info call 609-292-6310.

NEWARK—"The Power," "African Skies," "Mini Zoo Masters" and "Discover Wildlife Scavenger Hunt" programs at the Newark Public Library. For more info call 201-596-6550.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19**  
MOUNTAINVIEW—"Benevolent Bats" at Trillium Theatre from 8-9 p.m. For more info call 908-759-3670.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
PLAINFIELD—Morosky Game Tournament for children ages 8-12 (adults welcome) at Plainfield High School from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more info call 908-753-3395.

SOMERVILLE—Fun with printmaking for children in grades 4-8 at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey at 9 a.m., noon and 1 and 4 p.m. Pre-registration is required. For more info call 908-725-2110.

**THRU OCTOBER 21**  
JERSEY CITY—"A Journey Through Children's Folk Tales" creative writing course at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

CRANFORD—Saturday Sports Spectacular basketball, soccer and tennis program at Union County College. For more info call 908-709-7500.

JERSEY CITY—"Musical Theater and You" musical theater course at Jersey City State College. For more info call 201-200-3089.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
PLAINFIELD—"Children's Film Program" at the Plainfield Public Library at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-757-1111.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
PLAINFIELD—"Little People's Storytime" at the Plainfield Public Library at 11 a.m. For more info call 908-757-1111.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**  
TRENTON—Kaleidoscope Kids "Mask in Theater and Mask in Fun" workshop at The State Museum at 10 and 11-15 a.m. For more info call 609-292-6310.



## Teen fitness magazine now available

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—Fit Teens, a fitness magazine for young people ages 11 to 16, is now available from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

Featuring interviews with Olympic Medalist Dominique Dawes, teen Broadway performers, and young athletes from across the country, Fit Teens encourages young people to get fit and stay fit through articles, health tips, and exercises for certain sports and activities.

"Our nation's young people need to flex their muscles a lot more than they are doing now," remarked APTA President Marilyn Moffat, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA. "The payoffs of being fit just cannot be ignored. Fit people have an easier time doing more physically challenging activities, they recover faster from injuries, and they do not get sick as often. People who are fit tend to look better and feel better," she continued.

To receive a free single copy send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fit Teens, c/o APTA, PO Box 37257, Washington, DC 20013.

they are doing now," remarked APTA President Marilyn Moffat, PT, Ph.D., FAPTA. "The payoffs of being fit just cannot be ignored. Fit people have an easier time doing more physically challenging activities, they recover faster from injuries, and they do not get sick as often. People who are fit tend to look better and feel better," she continued.

To receive a free single copy send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fit Teens, c/o APTA, PO Box 37257, Washington, DC 20013.

## Ripken authors first children's book

DALLAS, TX.—Timed to coincide with the most phenomenal event of his career—breaking Lou Gehrig's "unbreakable" streak of 2,130 consecutive games played—Baseball great Cal Ripken has released his first book for children entitled *Count Me In*.

In *Count Me In*, aimed at children 8-12, the Baltimore Orioles shortstop tells young readers how the road to success in any field is rarely traveled overnight. Using his life as an example, Ripken shows how greatness is attained through sustained day-by-day efforts and victories.

The book includes highlights of the twists and turns on his way to the top; his formative years, when Cal dealt with his father's regular absences; exposure to minor league parks across the country, where his father was a coach; and playing for his father and alongside his brother in Baltimore.

It includes 20 to 25 full color illustrations and 20 to 25 photographs. Ripken plans to donate his proceeds to the Kelly and Cal Ripken, Jr. Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by him and his wife to support literacy, health and community service programs.

## Students receive homework help from cablevision

NEWARK—Cablevision of Newark will begin airing its third season of the award winning "Extra Help" homework assistance program for students.

Math instruction is live on Channel 3 every Tuesday and repeated on

Wednesday. English lessons will be done every Thursday and repeated on Friday. All lessons are conducted by teachers from the Newark School District and coincide with the classroom curriculum.

The "Extra Help" program will

continue throughout the entire school year with the last show of the season airing on May 23. Students may call in their homework questions and are assisted by teachers while viewing the television screen.

## Enter NJIT's national H.S. design competition

NEWARK—High school students across the country have a chance to test their creative mettle and win a full college scholarship or cash prizes when they enter the 1996 National Architecture Design Competition sponsored by New Jersey Institute of Technology's School of Architecture.

This year's competition challenges students to design "A cafe for your neighborhood," by incorporating their own talent and creativity with specific project requirements such as sketches of ground plans, a section cut of the

building, and an axonometric (3-dimensional view) or a perspective drawing of their building design. Official competition guidelines will be mailed to all registered applicants starting January 17, 1996.

Top prize is a five-year full-tuition scholarship to NJIT's School of Architecture, valued at \$55,000 out-of-state and \$25,000 in-state; second prize is a five-year half-tuition scholarship valued at \$27,500 out-of-state and \$12,500 in-state; third place winners will receive \$250 cash prizes.

Competition deadlines are Monday, January 29, 1996. Entry forms must be received (postmarked); Friday, March 29, 1996. Projects must be submitted (postmarked); Monday, April 29, 1996. Winners will be announced.

Students must have a teacher from their high school sponsor the project, and an affidavit stating the work is unassisted is required. Projects can be created free-hand or with the assistance of a computer.

For registration forms call 201-596-3080 or toll-free in New Jersey 800-925-NJIT; or fax requests to 201-596-8296. Completed forms can be faxed or sent by regular mail to: Sandy Moore, competition coordinator, NJIT School of Architecture, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102-1982.

## Giuliani meets with teen reporters

NEW YORK, NY.—High school journalists from throughout New York City will meet face-to-face with Mayor Rudy Giuliani in the first student press conference of his term, to be broadcast live on Thirteen/WNET on Thursday, October 26 from noon to 1 p.m.

In *The Mix's* Andrea Barrow, a high school reporter for the national PBS series for teens, will moderate. The press conference will take place at the Thirteen/WNET studios in Manhattan.

More than 50 student reporters

and editors from high school newspapers throughout the city's five boroughs will cover the press conference for their school newspapers. They are expected to pose questions to the mayor on a broad range of topics and issues.

In addition, students in classrooms from Brooklyn Heights to Jackson Heights will pose their own questions electronically on NYLink, a state-wide educational telecommunications network developed by Thirteen/WNET that connects schools across the city and state.

## Women writers' book party for children

NEWARK—The Quarterly Black Review of Books will continue its "Black Women Writers Book Parties" series with children stories at The Newark Public Library on Saturday, October 21.

The event is presented through The Library's "Hooray For Children" series and will begin at 2 p.m. with author Vy Higginsen.

Higginsen, the writer, producer, and director of *Mama, I Want To Sing* (the longest running off-Broadway, black musical in theater history) will discuss her new book *This Is My*

*Song: A Collection of Gospel Music for the Family*. The book illuminates gospel in words, music, photos, and stunning artwork.

This book is intended to document, preserve and encourage the current younger generation to understand and participate in the rich cultural heritage that is gospel music," says Higginsen. The book features a collection of 30 gospel songs that have become standards in the gospel repertoire including *Ev'ry Time I Feel De Spirit*, *Down By The Riverside*, and *We'll Understand It By And By*.



## Building Your Family Through Infant Adoption An Educational Forum

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25

7:00 p.m.

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- STIR IN** small red bell pepper, cut into strips; 4 green onions, cut into 1-inch pieces; and 1 can each: black-eyed peas (15 1/2 oz.) and corn (21 oz.), drained, rinsed. Cook and stir 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Serve over hot rice, if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

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## 1.2 million

Continued from page A-1

For me, there was a feeling that we accomplished something that we needed to accomplish."

Johnson continued that not since the '70s "has there been this kind of feeling among black men that we experienced the other day."

"It's always interesting when the general media will go to people to validate their opinion as to what should be said by black Americans. As opposed to interviewing men who attended the march they go to people who were not present to validate their

feelings that this march shouldn't take place. This event was one of the most significant events for black men in this decade and we do not need to justify why we marched," says Johnson.

*City News* will continue its coverage of the Million Man March in next week's issue. We would like to hear from march participants and those who did not march. (Why didn't you participate?) Send all response to *City News* 144 North Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060.

## Young, gifted and black

Continued from page A-4

Edelman and the Children's Defense Fund. Today, in comparison to white children, black children are one and one-half times more likely to grow up in families whose household head didn't graduate from high school.

They are twice as likely to be arrested for property crimes, to be unemployed as teenagers and later as adults, and to become teenage mothers. African-American infants are two and one-half times as likely to die in the first year of life, and to be born at low birth weights.

They are three times more likely than white young people to live in single-parent homes, to live in group quarters, and/or to be suspended from school. African-American young people are four times as likely to be born of mothers who have had no prenatal care, mothers who died during childbirth, or mothers dying from HIV infection. They are five times more likely to be arrested by the police for violent crimes than are white youth. And they are nine times more likely to become victims of homicide.

The most destructive institutional factor which impacts black youth today is unquestionably the criminal

justice system. Instead of investing in job training programs, education and health care, our system is responding to the crisis of black youth essentially by building more prisons.

In the ten years between 1982 and 1992, state governments alone built 455 new prisons. One half of those in prisons are now black. Nation-wide, the prison population in federal, state and county facilities now exceeds one and one-half million.

Twenty-three percent of African-American males between the ages of 18 and 29 are today either in prison, on probation, parole or awaiting trial.

The Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, which is direct, is only ten blocks away from the heart of Harlem, 125th Street. Everyday, in our immediate neighborhood, I can see the destruction of an entire generation of our young people. In New York City, 45 percent of all African-American youth dwell in poverty.

In Central Harlem, one out of eight households has no plumbing or toilet facilities; 87 percent of all households lack any form of air con-

## Urban League offers homebuyer's seminar

MONTECLAIR—The Urban League of Essex County will sponsor a free Home Buyer's Seminar on Tuesday, October 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Scheduled for the League's North Essex Office, the seminar will review information potential home buyers need when shopping for a home such as how to work with real estate agents, understanding interests rates and points, types of mortgages, etc.

The League is also offering a Home Buyer's Education Course which is an in-depth five-part series which covers what a person needs to know, not only to buy a house, but to get more house for their money.

The classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 26 through November 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. Course fee is \$35 per person. The seminar is free. For additional information or registration call 201-746-7275.

## Racial justice

Continued from page A-4

or found the smoking gun—or knife/knives. Plus, they found no eyewitnesses. That, compounded by former Los Angeles Police Detective Mark Fuhrman, whose credibility was held high by the prosecutors, but destroyed by the defense team.

Race, sex, drugs, money, violence—all of the nation's "hot button" issues—played a role in this case. If there is a central lesson to be learned in this tragedy, it is this: we must stop the violence. In this period of atonement, we as a nation must search our souls and pray for all the families involved—and the nation.

There are no winners in this case and, based upon the verdict, the murderer or murderers remain free. Therefore, the case is not closed. Much agony, anxiety and doubt remains. We must remain prayerful.

## Freeholder budget

Continued from page A-1

"When I became President of the Board in January, I said we had to reorganize, restructure, and downsize the operations of the Board," said DiVincenzo. "This proposal is another step in that direction. In light of the county's financial condition, all departments, including the Freeholder Board, have to learn to do more with less."

The Freeholder Board had 105 aides when DiVincenzo became President in January. If the DiVincenzo proposal is adopted by the Freeholder Board, there will be at most 9

Freeholder staff members receiving health benefits and the total amount of staff members will be reduced to a maximum of 36.

"This proposal comes at a time when we are beginning to prepare for the 1996 budget," continued DiVincenzo. "It should set an example for everyone involved in preparing next year's budget. The Freeholder Board can't expect other departments to cut costs and make hard decisions if we don't cut our own spending."

## As I see it

Continued from page A-4

Orange, Friday, Nov. 17 with cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Event will honor 50 community women exemplifying the spirit and mission of the Guild and past presidents. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard (Gabrielle) Coleman chair the Honorary Committee. Proceeds will be contributed to Essex County Urban League building fund.

## Talk to the Governor on live TV

TRENTON—Measuring Up: The Governor's Call In on Core Curriculum Standards, a live television special, airing Thursday, October 19 at 8 p.m. will provide a forum for direct public input on proposed core curriculum for standards for NJ students in Kindergarten through 12 grade. Citizens can voice their opinions by calling 1-800-722-6588.

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## The Newark Public Schools

### Community Outreach Meetings

All sessions will be held from 6 - 8 p.m.

Date	Site	Cluster
Thursday, October 12	University High School 55 Clinton Pl.	Cluster III South Ward
Wednesday, October 18	West Side High School 403 S. Orange Ave.	Clusters V&I West & Central Wards
Monday, October 23	Rafael Hernandez School 345 Broadway	Cluster IV North Ward
Wednesday, November 1	Arts High/COED 187 Broadway	Cluster II Secondary Schools
Thursday, November 2	Lafayette St. School 205 Lafayette Street	Cluster I East Ward

Citizens interested in speaking may sign up at the registration desk at the meeting. Speakers will have three (3) minutes for comments or questions.

For more information call: 733-7260

# RITZ WEDNESDAY

## DeVito, Hackman and Travolta star in *Get Shorty*



(l to r) Gene Russo, John Travolta, Gene Hackman and Danny DeVito star in MGM's comedy *Get Shorty*. Photo by Fred Zahedi

**HOLLYWOOD, CA**—In Hollywood, everybody wants...but the way they get can be outrageous. Two-time Academy Award nominee John Travolta, double Oscar winner Gene Hackman, Rene Russo and Danny DeVito star in the contemporary comedy *Get Shorty*.

Based on the best-selling novel by author Elmore Leonard, the film is directed by Barry Sonnenfeld (The Addams Family) who also served as executive producer.

Chili Palmer (John Travolta) is a Miami loan shark who's sent to Los Angeles to collect on a gambling debt from film producer Harry Zimm (Gene Hackman). Harry's luck may have changed though; Chili is an avid movie fan—even of the B-movie

screamers that Harry churns out.

Instead of breaking Harry's legs, Chili pitches him an idea that could be the break of Harry's career. Chili soon discovers that loan sharking was the perfect training ground for making movies...though you have to be ruthless to make it in Hollywood.

Barry Sonnenfeld's enthusiasm for *Get Shorty* was contagious to DeVito who, of course, ultimately did read the book and loved it. He and the director began to develop the project for Jersey Films, which last year brought audiences the multiple award-winning hit *Pulp Fiction*, *Reality Bites* and *8 Seconds*.

"The appealing thing about the story was that it was very real," DeVito offers. "The central character, Chili

Palmer, is a kind of low-level loan shark who wants out of that world. He comes to Hollywood on the trail of a guy who's 'skipped,' but when he meets Harry Zimm, he sees an opportunity and seizes it. He gets involved with Hollywood and kind of teaches the 'big boys' how it's done. He ends up changing his life just by being himself."

Sonnenfeld adds, "I've always felt that the funniest comedy is really ty-based-where the humor comes not out of people telling jokes or one-liners, but out of ordinary situations with really smart writing. That's what Elmore Leonard's book, *Get Shorty*, is all about. I loved the characters, I loved the dialogue, and it had a really great story."

MOVIE REVIEW

## Spike Lee's *Clockers*: wakeup call to African Americans

by B.B. Robinson

A violent homicide occurred late last night in front of Hah's restaurant. A 22-year-old black male, Darrel Adams, was shot four times by an unknown assailant who ran from the crime scene. Police say the motive for the murder may involve a battle over drug turf.

A variant of the above news flash appears in newspapers across the country every day. Director Spike Lee built on this phenomena and Richard Price's book to develop the movie *Clockers*. To be frank, there are very few new wrinkles in *Clockers*. The movie contains a plethora of negative, stereotypical, yet real, images of African Americans. Moreover, most youths that live in inner-city communities can relate several real-life events that parallel what happens in *Clockers*.

What is interesting about the movie, however, is that Spike Lee harnesses everything in its absurd detail by weaving an intricate story line filled with subtle, yet obvious, messages. In fact, viewers are likely to conclude from *Clockers* that there is nothing more absurd than the effects of drugs being imported and traded in African-American communities.

As for the story-line, Rodney, a drug operation master in an inner-city housing project, requires that Strike (a.k.a. Ronnie, a drug dealer for Rodney) kill Darrel Adams to facilitate expansion of the drug business. Shortly thereafter, Darrel Adams

is shot to death. Did Strike commit the murder, or did his all-American brother, Victor, do the shooting?

Why would such a hard-working, highly respected, and lovable character as Victor kill Darrel Adams? Since "black-on-black crime" is so rampant in African-American communities, why should the police be concerned about who actually killed Darrel Adams? Why should Tyrone Jeter, a 12-year-old product of a female-headed household, shoot and kill Rodney's henchman to protect Strike? All of these appear as real questions in *Clockers*, and they serve as Spike Lee's method for getting the viewer to see the absurdity of the reality.

One "absurd" question is not raised in the movie, probably because we all know the answer: Who is really responsible for drugs coming into our communities, and why can't the flow of drugs be stopped? Put simply, why can't a nation as technically advanced as the United States stop the drug trade? This is an absurd question that even Spike Lee wisely chose not to tackle.

What are some of the major messages in *Clockers*? First, you may be struck by the placidness with which children play in the backdrop to the drug dealing and violence. Though they are oblivious to the reality in youth, it seeps into their subconscious, and they are doomed to relive it all as adults.

Second, you may be amazed by the ingenuity of the young drug deal-

ers in developing their communications and transactions systems. How great it would be if that ingenuity was applied to constructive purposes.

Third, you may be appalled by Strike's failure to see a medical doctor given his stomach problems. However, it is common for African Americans to adopt a death wish and procrastinate on taking action on health matters until it is too late.

I venture to say that if Spike Lee was given an opportunity to decode his messages in plain and simple language, then he would make the following statements:

- African Americans must stop selling the drugs of death to their own people.
- They must take on the mission of cleaning up their communities with the same zeal that drug addicts take on the mission of obtaining drugs for their habits.
- They must stop the flow of blood from the bodies of young African-American males. Their blood is the life of the communities, and whether the flow is the result of gun shots or AIDS, the flow must be stopped.

There are too few strong men in African-American communities who choose to do the right thing and who seek to impose that righteousness.

But they cannot reshape the communities alone. They need help. If they do not get that help, African-American youths are doomed to a more dreadful reality.

## Mandela launches children's fund with screening of *Cry, The Beloved Country*

**NEW YORK**—To pledge their commitment to the children of South Africa and celebrate the spirit of reconciliation and racial harmony, the cast and filmmakers of Anant Singh's production of Miramax Films' *Cry, The Beloved Country* have announced the launching of a new U.S.-based charity: The Friends of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Inc., with Mandela Children's Fund, Inc., with the film's Benefit World Premiere at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York on Monday, Oct. 23.

The evening will be hosted by Miramax Films' co-chairmen Bob and Harvey Weinstein and the film's South African producer, Anant Singh. Based on Alan Paton's classic work of South African literature, *Cry, The Beloved Country* is the first film to originate from the democratic South Africa and embodies a commitment to the ideals of brotherhood, humanity and forgiveness among all humankind.

"It gives us great joy to present a film about reconciliation at this moment in time. This special evening will be an unforgettable evening that celebrates, like the film, the resilience of the human spirit," says Harvey Weinstein.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will serve as honorary chair, and Whoopi Goldberg, Dr. Claudis Bahenbarg and Puzletta and Denzel Washington will serve as co-chairs for the gala benefit in New York.

The benefit committee include Mr. and Mrs. Michael Arlen, Artists for a Free South Africa; Mr. and Mrs. Armand Bartos; Lawrence Bender; Senator Christopher J. Dodd; Charles Dutton; George Foreman; Roy Innis; James Earl Jones; Senator J. Robert Kerry; Stephen King; Meigher Communications; Wesley Snipes; Arne Wattleson; The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation; Shawn and Marlon Wayans and Alfre Woodard.

Six months after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, President Mandela started the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and pledged one-third of his annual salary for five years. The new

Friends of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Inc. will raise money for the charitable programs of President Mandela's Fund, and aid in the support of the trust to principle objectives; to help repair the ravaged fabric of South Africa's society and empower the nation's youth.



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Writer, Walter Mosley poured on the charm and captured Isabella Bay, director corporate affairs Sony Music Entertainment Inc. (SMI), while as a SMI corporate affairs-sponsored symposium and previewing of the movie *Devil in a Blue Dress* (starring Denzel Washington as easy Rawlings) based on Mosley's best-selling novel. Mosley also spoke candidly about and read excerpts from his newly published novel, *RL's Dream*. Photo courtesy of SMI

# GET SHORTY

Attitude plays a part

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STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20



## BILLBOARD

**THRU OCTOBER 22**  
NEW BRUNSWICK—"The Mousetrap" at the George Street Playhouse. For more info call 908-246-7717.

**THRU OCTOBER 20**  
NEW YORK—"Tatlaheasse" a musical at the Warehouse Theater at 8 p.m. For more info call 212-431-9220.

**UNION—"Censored on Final Approach"** at Kean College. For more info call 908-527-2371.

**NEWARK—"The Daughters of Lee Roy Jones"** at the African Globe Theatre/Works at 8 p.m. For more info call 201-624-1584.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19**  
NEW YORK—"Jazz on Film" at Lincoln Center at 7 and 9 p.m. For more info call 212-751-6500.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**  
PISCATAWAY—"Auditions for 'Dancing in the End Zone'" at the Circle Playhouse at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 201-624-7555.

**WATCHUNG—Comedy Showcase** at Watchung Arts Center at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-755-0150.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
SOMERVILLE—"The Shirelles live in concert" at the Raritan Valley Community College at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-725-3420.

**NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Annual Fall Benefit Fashion Show and Luncheon** from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Pines Manor. For more info call 908-754-5815.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
WAYNE—"WPC Jazz Series" at William Paterson College at 4 p.m. For more info call 201-595-5271.

**NEW YORK—Jazz Sunday Brunch** featuring Benny Powell on the World Yacht. For more info call 212-630-8100.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
NEW YORK—"Second annual Nubian & Latino Beauty Show 'Hot Hair Styles of Salsa & Soul'" at the Motown Cafe at 9:30 a.m. For more info call 212-757-7580.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
NEW YORK—"Jazz Sunday Brunch" featuring Bucky Pizzarelli on the World Yacht. For more info call 212-630-8100.

**THRU NOVEMBER 12**  
NEW BRUNSWICK—"The Piano Lesson" at Crossroads Theatre. For more info call 908-249-5550.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
MONTCLAIR—"Trio Puente Latin Jazz Ensemble" at 8 p.m. at the Montclair State University. For more info call 201-655-5122.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**  
NEW BRUNSWICK—"Tea for Two: A Victorian Garden Party," a fall auction and tea to benefit the New Brunswick Theatre at 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency. For more info call 908-446-2895.

**NEW YORK—Jazz Sunday Brunch** featuring The Roy Meriwether Trio on the World Yacht. For more info call 212-630-8100.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10**  
NEW YORK—"Shaggy" live at Tramps. For more info call 212-727-7788.

**NOVEMBER 10 - 19**  
NEWARK—"Fifth Annual Newark Jazz Festival." For more info or to be on the mailing list call 201-643-3605.

## Angela Bofill to appear at Club Bené

**SAYREVILLE—Singer/Songwriter** Angela Bofill will appear in concert at the Club Bené Dinner Theater on Saturday, October 21. Bofill will perform at 9 p.m. with an optional dinner being served at 7 p.m. Bofill's strengths are in taking an original and very personal view of romance and expressing it with a compelling emotional directness. Romance is the theme of her music whether the style is pop-edged ballads, jazz-inflected workouts or R&B, the theme is always romance. For reservations call the club at 908-727-3000.



## Artist Indira Bailey to exhibit at WBGO

**NEWARK—The work of artists** Indira Bailey and Melvin Clarke will be featured in an exhibit hosted by WBGO-FM in its Park Place studios. The exhibit is scheduled to run from October 16, with a kick-off reception at 8 p.m., through December 31.

Bailey, a Plainfield native, will exhibit several oil paintings entitled "Memories" depicting the richness of family relationships and the complexities of everyday life.

Clark who currently resides in Brooklyn, NY will display a collection of oil paintings that portray the movement and coloration of music—specifically jazz and blues. An accomplished painter who has

received numerous awards, fellowships and commissions, Clark's work is often exhibited in prominent galleries in the U.S., Europe and the Far East.

This summer, Bailey received an Honorable Mention for her paintings at the Manchester Art Festival in Manchester, CT. She also received second prize in the South Plainfield Art Festival in South Plainfield. A graduate of Pratt Institute, Bailey teaches Oil Painting at the College of Morris County in Randolph.

WBGO-FM presents six art exhibits each year. For further information about the exhibit and reception call 201-624-8880.

## Union County to sponsor one-day folk art festival

**CRANFORD—During Free Arts and Humanities Weekend, "A Celebration of Traditions,"** a one-day Folk Arts Festival, will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 21 at Union County College in Cranford.

Open to the public and free of charge, visitors will enjoy musical and dance performances from Ireland, Haiti, Ecuador, the Philippines, India, China, West Africa, Bulgaria, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Greece, Eastern European and Native Americans. For further information call 908-555-2550. IT relay users call 1-800-852-7599.

## Plainfield Branch NAACP to host annual dinner

**PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield** Chapter of the NAACP is hosting their Annual Freedom Fund Awards Dinner at the Pantages Renaissance (Snuffy's) in Scotch Plains. Keynote speaker for the evening will be re-elected NJ NAACP State President

Elaine Harrington. Music will be provided by Kenneth Gardner. Monetary contribution is \$40 in advance \$50 at the door. For ticket information please call Irene Leath at 908-756-1763.

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## NJ Nets return to Rutgers for exhibition game

**EAST RUTHERFORD—Forth** First time since the 1980-81 season, the New Jersey Nets will take the Louis Brown Center floor at Rutgers University in an NBA game when they host the Phoenix Suns in an NBA pre-season contest Friday, October 20.

The Nets played home games at the Rutgers from 1978 through 1981, and then moved to the Meadowlands to play at the Byrne Arena. Many of the Nets' NBA record holders began their careers in

Piscataway. Bernard King began his NBA career at Rutgers as a Nets rookie in the 1978 season and averaged 24.2 points per game over the season that still stands as a team record.

"We are happy to be able to go back to Rutgers to play this game," said Nets General Manager Willis Reed. "The game should evoke a lot of memories for our fans and to have such a quality opponent in the Phoenix Suns coming in should make for a great evening."

Four of the Nets first five NBA seasons were played at Rutgers and in addition to Clark, Rutgers was home to such notable Nets as "Super" Williamson, Maurice Lucas, Mike Newlin and current Nets radio analyst Mike O'Koren and Kevin Porter.

Tickets for the game are available through TicketMaster outlets and the Nets office. For information on game tickets and special group packages, contact the Nets office at 201-935-8888.

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# BUSINESS

## BUSINESS CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

**PLAINFIELD—Are You An Entrepreneur?**—Course at the Community Education Center from 9-11 p.m. For more info call Dorothy Pollard at 908-756-6000.

**PRINCETON—Investment Seminar for the Women of the 90s at A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.** from 5:30-8 p.m. For more info call 1-800-722-3933.

### OCTOBER 19

**NEWARK—Sixth Annual Export Matchmaker '95 Trade Fair & Conference** at the Radisson Hotel. For more info call 201-242-6237, ext. 223 or Fax 201-824-6587.

**NEW YORK—Strategic Research Institute's 1995 Forum on Minority & Women-Owned Securities Firms** at the Warwick Hotel. For more info call 1-800-598-4950.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

**MOUNTAINSIDE—NJAWBO's Fifth Annual Business-to-Business Open House & Expo at L'Affaire** from 9-5:30 p.m. For more info call 908-688-0707.

**WAYNE—"Are you an Entrepreneur?"** program for women at William Paterson College from 6-9 p.m. For more info call 201-995-2971.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

**NEWARK—Effective Public Relations Workshop** at Kean College SBCD. For more info call 212-527-2346.

**NEW YORK—A-Power Seminar** at the McGraw-Hill Building at 1 p.m. For more info call 1-800-625-2424.

**PARAMUS—Small Business Success Seminars and Business Card Exchange** at the Radisson Inn from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more info call 201-797-1484, ext. 203/204.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

**REINSAUKEN—1995 Black Business Trade Show** at the South Jersey Expo Center. For more info write to BCBPA, Inc., P.O. Box 491, Willingboro, NJ 08046.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

**SOMERSET—The '95 Mid-Jersey Business Expo** at the Garden State Exhibit Center. For more info call 908-725-1552.

## AT&T and Afro-American



Dan Shulman (l) VP marketing for AT&T's small business division and John Oliver, chairman and CEO of the AFRO sign onto the Afro's home page which is sponsored by AT&T. The Afro's Home page, AFRO American features news, entertainment, 100 years of African-American history and information on AT&T services for small business owners and consumers.

Photo by Felix H. Bryant, Jr.

## A call to arms for children

**NEWARK—At 2:45 p.m. on Friday, October 20, bells will ring throughout Essex County in a "call to arms" on behalf of children.** As part of the community partnership efforts being funded by the United Way of Essex and West Hudson.

The event is being coordinated by Wellspring: Healthy Beginnings along with members of the religious, public and private sectors as the kick-off to a community partnership effort for children.

"The United Way of Essex and West Hudson is responding to the cries of the children in our local communities by leading a community crusade for children and families," said Gail Moore, vice-president of Marketing and Resource Development at United Way of Essex and West Hudson.

## YWCA offers after school meal program for children

**PLAINFIELD—The YWCA of Plainfield has announced its sponsorship of the Child Care Food Program, designed to provide meals for children in child care centers, recreation programs etc. Meals are available at no separate charge to all children 12 years old and under enrolled in the program. However, participants have to be eligible based on their family's income. An eligibility income scale is provided below to help figure eligibility status. Effective from July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996**

Family Size	Free	Yearly Income	Reduced Yearly Income
1		\$ 9,711	\$13,820
2		\$13,039	\$18,556
3		\$16,367	\$23,292
4		\$19,695	\$28,028
Each Additional Family Member		+\$ 3,328	+\$ 4,736

For more information please call the YWCA at 908-756-3836.

## Newark Y emerges from bankruptcy protection

**NEWARK—The Newark YMCA has announced that a Federal Court Judge, last week, ruled in favor of its proposed repayment plan, marking the organization's official emergence from Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection and the culmination of more than five years of recovery and reorganization.**

In announcing his decision, Judge William Toubey noted, "It's very rewarding to sit here and see a fine institution like this able to reorganize and continue to serve and carry out its function."

"The current management team

of the Y is to be complimented for doing a wonderful job in saving this institution, which has served the citizens of Newark and Greater Essex County, and particularly the children of the area, for all these many years," Toubey said.

According to Milton Harrison, president and CEO of the Y, the terms of the repayment plan call for creditors to receive a settlement averaging 70 cents on the dollar for the total amount of unsecured claims. "We're very proud of the final settlement figure, which is quite generous by any financial industry stan-

dards. Many of our creditors never expected to collect anything, so they're obviously pleased, and I think the terms of the repayment plan clearly demonstrate the Y's commitment to fair and equitable resolution of past problems," Harrison said.

The Newark YMCA was almost closed in 1990 due to its management, operational and fiscal problems, as well as severe deterioration and the need for extensive repairs to its Broad Street facility. At that time, the national YMCA was seriously considering revoking the local Y's charter and funding from the

United Way of Essex and West Hudson was suspended as a result of concerns about the organization's management and fiscal stability.

Since taking over in 1992, Harrison has implemented a massive renovation of the physical facility, reorganized the staff, and strengthened volunteer involvement in the organization. During the recovery, membership has consistently grown, and a full slate of youth and family programs have been restored.

For Harrison, who praised the Y's volunteers and staff for their ef-

forts in making the Recovery Plan a reality, the timing of Toubey's decision was particularly gratifying.

"Our official emergence from Chapter 11 came on the same day that we celebrated the grand opening of our new Cardiovascular Fitness Center and held an open house for the community to showcase all of the renovations and improvements we've made to our facility, Judge Toubey's announcement helped to make it an especially memorable day for the Newark Y," Harrison said.

## Monteverdi receives Trailblazer Award



**DETROIT, MI—Mark V. Monteverdi, manager, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc. (c), accepts the Trailblazer Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., during the Club's 50th Annual Convention recently in Detroit.** Doris F. Johnson, (l), chairperson of the Club's economic development corporation presents the award while Catherine Sykes, retiring Club president, looks on. Monteverdi was chosen for the Trailblazer Award because of his work on behalf of constituent groups, including the production of the popular Philip Morris Guide to Black Organizations, 1992 to '94 and 1995 to '97 editions, and for his commitment to the empowerment of African-American women.

## Four interviewing tips that could get you that job

**PRINCETON—There is always someone looking for a job going on an interview. Some people go prepared but others are not. If you're expecting to interview for a job, here are a few helpful guidelines to help you land the position.**

**Maintain eye contact at least 60 percent of the time:** If you don't maintain good eye contact, you could create the impression that you are unsteady, not interested, or have something to hide signals that you are candid, comfortable and sure of yourself. However, be careful not to stare at the interviewer.

**Dress for a job two levels higher than the one you're interviewing**

**for:** You only get one chance to make a good first impression. The way you present yourself absolutely influences the decision to hire you. Dress at a level of formality that shows you understand the importance of the situation and respect the person you are meeting. This usually means dressing more formally than you would on the job.

**Be come part of the five percent researchers who conduct research:** You can distinguish yourself from other applicants by showing you know such details as the size of the company, its age, its owner, what they do and their current needs and challenges. Among the useful sources of information are annual reports, 10K

reports, internal and external company publications, and recent newspaper and magazine articles.

**Prepare and practice a personal two-minute drill:** In many interview situations, you may be asked to start by talking about yourself. The two-minute drill is a verbal resume that captures the listener's interest and brings him or her up to date on your background in a clear and concise manner. The drill should address not only what you have done, but where you are headed. Two minutes is just enough time to convey key pieces of information without appearing to take over the conversation. Revise the drill until it fits that time frame.

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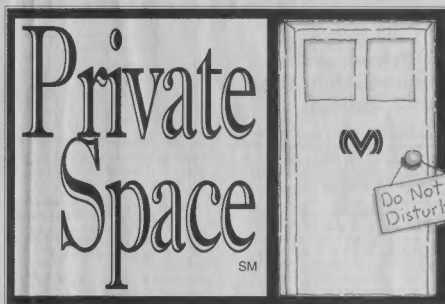
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Plainfield, NJ 07061



# Meet Louise. Mother, breadwinner and new PSE&G boss.

Louise works hard, being a breadwinner and raising her son, Jamie. She does it every day with a lot of determination. It's uncompromising customers like Louise that inspired PSE&G to set even higher standards for customer service.

And, we're backing these standards with written guarantees that say we'll pay you if we don't perform. For instance, if we fail to turn on existing service by the date promised, we'll credit residential customers \$25 per day and business customers \$100 per day until service is connected. With power like that, you're not just a PSE&G customer, you're the boss. There are nine guarantees in all. The first four are effective immediately.

The rest will become effective by December 1st.

**PSE&G Guarantees**

- 1.** We will fix it right the first time.
- 2.** We will turn on existing service by the date promised.
- 3.** We will repair dusk-to-dawn or street lights within 3 working days.
- 4.** We will ensure accurate bills.
- 5.** We will keep all appointments.
- 6.** We will install new dusk-to-dawn or street lights within 10 working days.
- 7.** We will provide new electric service within 5 working days.
- 8.** We will provide new gas service on the date promised.
- 9.** We will respond to a no-heat problem or an individual power outage within the quoted time. Some restrictions and limitations apply. Call for details.

**The power  
is in your hands.  
Guaranteed.**



**PSE&G**

Louise Brown  
Mother and  
Breadwinner

